

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following claims:

25. (New) A method of forming a flexible bone sheet comprising:
providing a sheet of cortical bone;
creating at least one hole in the sheet which is configured and dimensioned to receive a fastener;
masking the sheet proximate the at least one hole to create a masked region surrounding the at least one hole; and
applying at least one demineralizing agent to the sheet around the masked region.

26. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein the masking at least partly comprises:
removably attaching a plurality of masking elements to the sheet to provide masking proximate the at least one hole.

a,
27. (New) The method according to claim 25, further comprising:
creating perforations in the sheet that are substantially smaller than the at least one hole.

28. (New) The method according to claim 25, further comprising:
masking the sheet proximate at least a portion of an edge thereof.

29. (New) A bone sheet for implantation, the sheet comprising:
a flexible and at least partially demineralized field;
at least one mineralized region that is substantial surrounded by the at least partially demineralized field; and
at least one hole configured and dimensioned to receive at least one fastener.

30. (New) The bone sheet according to claim 29, wherein the sheet comprises cortical bone.

31. (New) The bone sheet according to claim 29, wherein the at least one mineralized region consists essentially of cortical bone.

32. (New) The bone sheet according to claim 29, wherein the at least one hole is defined within the at least one mineralized region.

33. (New) The bone sheet according to claim 29, wherein the mineralized region extends between at least two holes.

34. (New) The bone sheet according to claim 29, wherein the mineralized region extends between at least three holes.

35. (New) The bone sheet according to claim 29, further comprising an outer edge of the bone sheet, wherein the mineralized region extends to the outer edge.

36. (New) A mesh for implantation comprising:
a perforated cortical bone sheet comprising a plurality of openings;
at least one mineralized region disposed around at least one of the openings;
and
an at least partially demineralized region disposed around the at least one mineralized region.

Remarks

Claims 1-13 and 25-36 are pending in this application, including new claims 25-36.

Claims 1-13 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,090,998 to Grooms et al. ("Grooms") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,556,430 to Gendler ("Gendler"). The Office Action states that "Grooms et al. did not teach of a bone sheet for implantation" but that "in a similar art, Gendler evidences the use of a bone sheet adapted to conform to the configuration of a skeletal region to be repaired." The Office Action further states that "it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the ligament of Grooms